

DELIVERING AS ONE

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP 2008–2015

Coordinated by



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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL
MDG ROAD MAP
2008 – 2015**

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FOREWORD

With only seven years to go, the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asian and Pacific region remains highly uneven. We achieved success in many, but faltered in others. Even in areas of success, in-country and intra-country disparities persist. The pace of progress is too slow, and unless we act now and accelerate it further, 641 million people will continue to live on less than \$1 a day; some 97 million children will remain underweight and 4 million will die before reaching the age of five; some 250,000 maternal deaths will occur a year; 400 million people in urban areas will have no access to basic sanitation; and 566 million in rural areas will live without access to clean water.

Although the overall performance of the region in reducing income poverty has been highly noteworthy, it is still home to approximately two-thirds of the world's poor. Many countries in South and South-East Asia have unacceptably high numbers of underweight children. While poverty is the key factor, gender discrimination has had a significant impact in keeping the number of underweight, wasted and stunted children very high. The region's overall maternal mortality ratio, at more than 300 per 100,000 live births, is another area of great concern. This too is a result of persistent gender inequality. Equally worrisome is the frequency and the extent of natural disasters, often due to climate change, which have brought untold miseries to our people.

Many of these events and trends can be traced to serious gaps in development policies, strategies, availability of resources and implementation processes. We know that high economic growth can reduce income poverty but its impact on other MDG indicators is rather mixed. Also, the impact of social policies on development is not often explicitly considered in development strategies. Measures to address social exclusion, as well as a rights-based approach to development, are not promoted as vigorously as economic growth policies. As a consequence, the participation and empowerment of excluded groups and individuals remain an unfinished business.

But this can all be changed. It is my firm belief that the destiny of Asia-Pacific is not to be poor. The region has the strengths, resources, knowledge and expertise to achieve the MDGs by 2015. It can provide the leadership to address the implementation shortcomings and financial gaps by harnessing the power of partnerships. Together, we can make a difference.

This conviction in our ability to shape our own destiny and make a difference to the lives of millions of our fellow human beings inspired us to make the MDGs a rallying point for action. The road map for achieving the MDGs in the region – developed by ESCAP in cooperation with UN and other regional agencies – provides a framework for us to harness the power of partnerships and “deliver as one” in

ushering a bright future for the region. The partnership will deliver five sets of products and services: knowledge and capacity development; expertise; advocacy for the MDGs; regional cooperation in delivering public goods; and resources. All combined, these regional partnerships should enable the region to successfully navigate its journey to 2015 by adding value to national efforts and processes.

It is my ardent hope that the regional MDG road map will help us in harnessing and elevating our partnerships and make the MDGs a reality for Asia and the Pacific region.



Noeleen Heyzer

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Executive Secretary of ESCAP

DELIVERING AS ONE

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP 2008 – 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the regional MDG road map is to provide a framework for 'delivering as one' – in the form of a regional partnership – in adding value to national development strategies and processes in the 'off-track' countries and in those below the Asian average in achieving the MDGs. In identifying these countries, both the trends and the absolute levels of their performance have been considered. Attention is also given to 'on-track' countries so that they do not fall behind, and lessons learnt from their successful experiences can be studied and disseminated. It should be emphasized that this is not a road map for the countries to reach its MDG targets. Each country, given its own circumstances, is expected to have in place a variety of development strategies, plans and programmes. The regional MDG road map takes these policies, strategies and processes as 'given' and aims to add value to national-level efforts by regional-level action.

Ministers and senior officials met in Jakarta in August 2005 to develop a regional strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals as a run-up to the UN World Summit held in September 2005. They adopted the Jakarta Declaration which, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to develop recommendations in the form of an action plan for achieving the goals in the Asia-Pacific region. This regional initiative was soon followed by the adoption of the UN World Summit Outcome by world leaders in September 2005 in which they reiterated their commitment to the MDGs. The Commission adopted resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, and requested the Executive Secretary to develop recommendations in the form of a regional road map. After extensive discussion, the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), held in Almaty in May 2007, favourably considered the regional MDG road map placed before it. The Commission also adopted resolution 63/4 which, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to further develop and refine the regional MDG road map in consultation with other partners.

An elaborate and extensive needs assessment exercise was conducted to identify the priorities and areas of concern and to further develop and refine the draft regional road map that was presented to the Commission during the sixty-third session. This needs assessment had three distinct components: (a) an assessment of the progress in achieving the MDGs, and the MDG targets/

(Continued)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *(continued)*

indicators in which countries were 'off-track' or were performing below the Asian average; (b) an analysis of national development strategies to see how well these were linked to achieving the MDGs, and to identify the gaps which were hindering the progress towards the MDGs; and (c) an assessment of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) of selected countries to identify the priority areas of concern at the country level and the extent to which these were linked to the MDGs.

Some of the results were presented to three sub-regional MDG forums, held in 2006 and 2007 as part of the consultation process and then incorporated in the revised regional MDG road map together with the priorities in their respective sub-regional action plans. The revised draft road map, resulting from the needs assessment and the sub-regional consultation, was then circulated to all Bangkok-based UN organizations, agencies and funds within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). The RCM, headed by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, met in Bangkok in November 2007 and agreed to work on several areas of critical concern, including the MDGs. The draft regional road map was also presented to an inter-agency meeting held at ESCAP on 28 January 2008.

The revised and refined regional MDG road map presented here is expected to serve as a platform for 'Delivering as One' in harnessing the knowledge, resources and expertise available within the UN system, the regional development bank, the regional organizations and other partners in support of the Millennium Development Goals by adding value to national-level strategies and processes. In focusing on the off-track countries and those falling below the Asian average, the regional MDG road map presents five types of products and services that could be offered at the regional level: (a) knowledge and capacity development; (b) expertise; (c) advocacy; (d) regional cooperation in delivering regional public goods; and (e) resources. The regional MDG road map also contains monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms to assess its impact on country-level outcomes. The regional MDG road map is a results-based programme which is expected to be financed through three principal channels: (a) the existing partnership between ADB, ESCAP and UNDP; (b) UN organizations and agencies which have agreed to engage in specific partnerships; and (c) the UN's Development Account. Extra-budgetary resources can also be sought, depending on country needs and priorities within the framework of this regional road map.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Ministers and senior officials gathered at Jakarta in August 2005 to develop a regional strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They adopted the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015 which, inter alia, requested the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to formulate an action plan to serve as a regional road map for achieving the MDGs.

Not long after this regional initiative, Heads of State and Government met at the United Nations World Summit in September 2005 and adopted the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which they strongly reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the MDGs. In the Outcome document, the representatives of the developing countries committed themselves to preparing MDG-based national development strategies by the end of 2006. Echoing the global approaches and the request contained in the Jakarta Declaration, the Commission adopted resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, and requested the Executive Secretary to develop recommendations for the achievement of the MDGs in the form of a regional road map. In response to resolution 62/1, the contours of a draft regional MDG road map were developed by ESCAP and presented during the sixty-third session of the Commission at Almaty in May 2007. The Commission, after extensive discussion, generally supported the regional MDG road map and adopted resolution 63/4, requesting the Executive Secretary to further develop and refine the regional MDG road map in consultation with other partners.

Since the sixty-third session of the Commission, the task of revising, refining and further developing the regional MDG road map has centred on developing strategic partnerships at the regional level in support of country efforts. The most recent global review conducted by UNDESA, as well as the regional review conducted by ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, provided further impetus in bringing all the partners

together as it became clear that no single agency or entity could overcome the MDG challenges. Both reviews report that, while significant progress has been made in a number of areas, the prospects for the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole look decidedly less promising. In fact, at the current rate of progress, none of the developing countries are likely to reach all the targets by 2015. Some targets are likely to be met; others are at serious risk.

Several measures have been taken to revise and refine the regional MDG road map and expand the partnership. First, sub-regional MDG forums helped in further identifying sub-region- specific issues and policy options. Second, ESCAP and several other Regional Commissions organized a side event on 4 July 2007 during the High-Level segment of the ECOSOC in Geneva on 2-5 July 2007 to elicit further comments and suggestions from both the regional and non-regional countries on the regional MDG road map. Third, further analytical studies were undertaken to identify constraints/gaps in MDG achievements. Fourth, the Thematic Group on Poverty and Hunger of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) discussed the regional MDG road map as a programme for collaboration and cooperation. The RCM is a grouping of the Bangkok-based UN organizations and agencies, funds and programmes chaired by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP formed to coordinate the process of 'delivering as one'. Fifth, individual consultations have been held with UN regional organizations and agencies to identify areas of interest and concrete actions. All these actions and processes have led to the preparation of a demand-driven regional MDG road map (table 1).

Table 1: Regional MDG Road Map: A demand-driven process

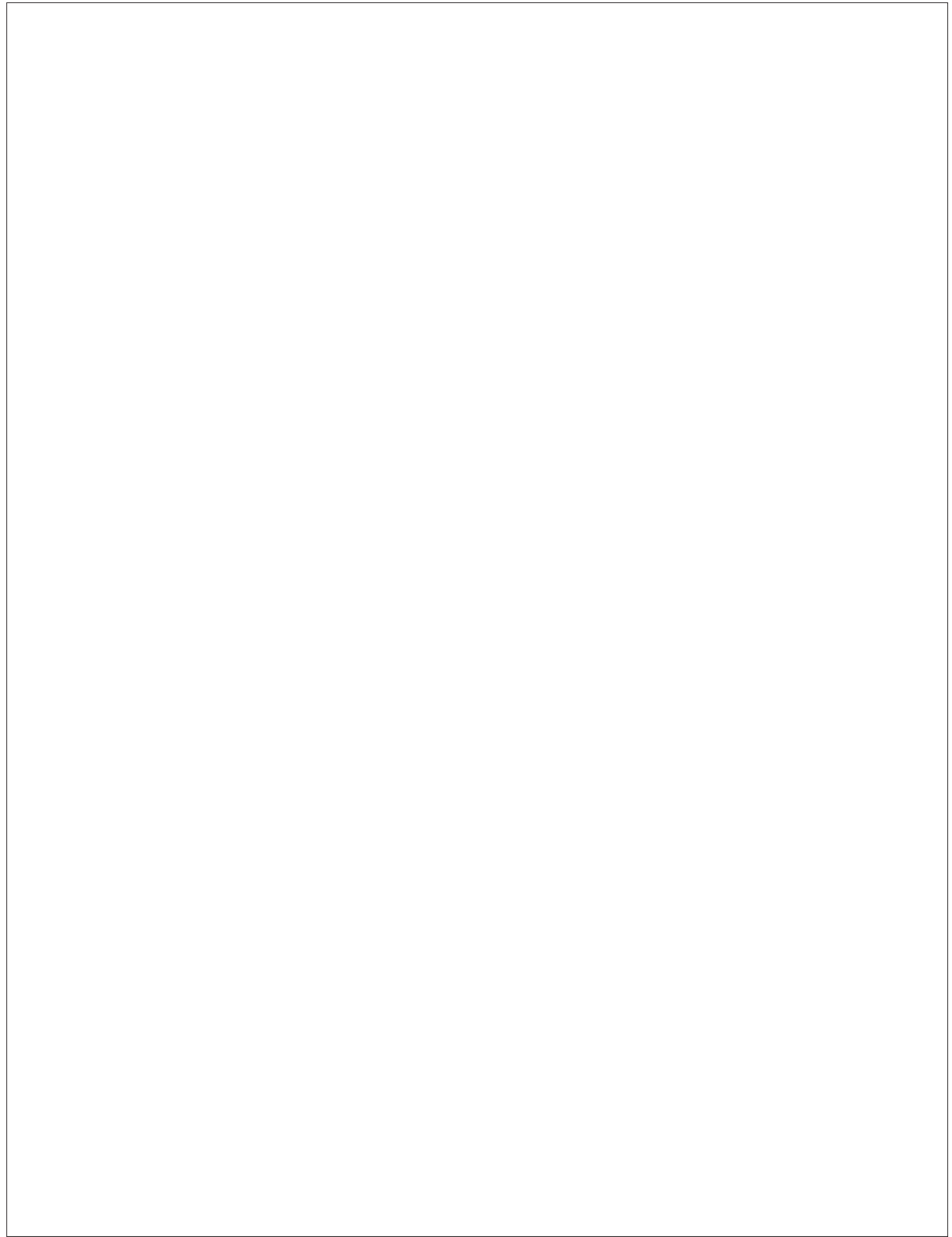
MANDATES	Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015
	Commission Resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region
	Commission Resolution 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region
NEEDS ASSESSMENT	Assessment of MDG progress: - MDG Progress Report (2007)
	National Development Strategies of 16 developing countries of the region: - Salient features - Identification of '5 gaps'
	Analysis of UNDAF process in selected LDCs
CONSULTATION PROCESS	3 sub-regional MDG Forums held in Nepal, Viet Nam and Kyrgyzstan
	Consultation with Bangkok-based UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes

The main objective of the regional MDG road map is to provide a framework for regional-level action – in the form of a regional partnership – in adding value to national development strategies and processes in the off-track countries and in those below the Asian average in achieving the MDGs.¹ In identifying these countries, both the trends and the absolute levels of their performance have been considered. Attention is also given to on-track countries so that they do not fall behind, and lessons learnt from their successful experiences can be studied and disseminated. It should be emphasized that this is not a road map for countries; it is a road map for the regional organizations and agencies to act together in adding value to country-level efforts. Each country, given its own circumstances, is expected to have in place a variety of development strategies, plans and programmes. The regional MDG road map takes these policies, strategies and processes as given and aims to add value by regional-level action.

The road map proposes five categories of products and services for delivery by the regional partnership. These are: (a) knowledge and capacity development; (b) expertise; (c); advocacy; (d) regional cooperation in delivering regional public goods; and (e) resources. These products and services correspond to the specific MDG indicators and targets that are posing difficulties for the off-track countries. Working with MDG stakeholders such as governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations/community-based organizations, the media, research institutions and academia, international organizations and agencies, and sub-regional organizations, these products and services are expected to add value to MDG-based national development strategies and processes.

This document has four sections. After the introduction in section I, the five categories of products and services to be delivered by the regional MDG road map are elaborated in section II which also discusses the various modalities for their delivery. In section III, the deliverables and timelines are summarized in implementing the regional MDG road map. Section IV discusses the monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes with an indication of how the regional MDG road map could be financed. The annex to this document spells out the results of the needs assessment and the consultation process, including an analysis of the action points identified in the action plans adopted by the sub-regional MDG forums and the discussions held with the UN entities within the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

¹ The off-track countries and those falling below the Asian average can also be viewed as those which have significant 'MDG gaps' or 'MDG deficits'. These two interchangeable terms are useful in explaining the various other 'gaps' which are hindering the progress towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. See ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, *A Future within Reach 2008: Regional partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* (Bangkok, UN, 2008) for a full discussion of these gaps.





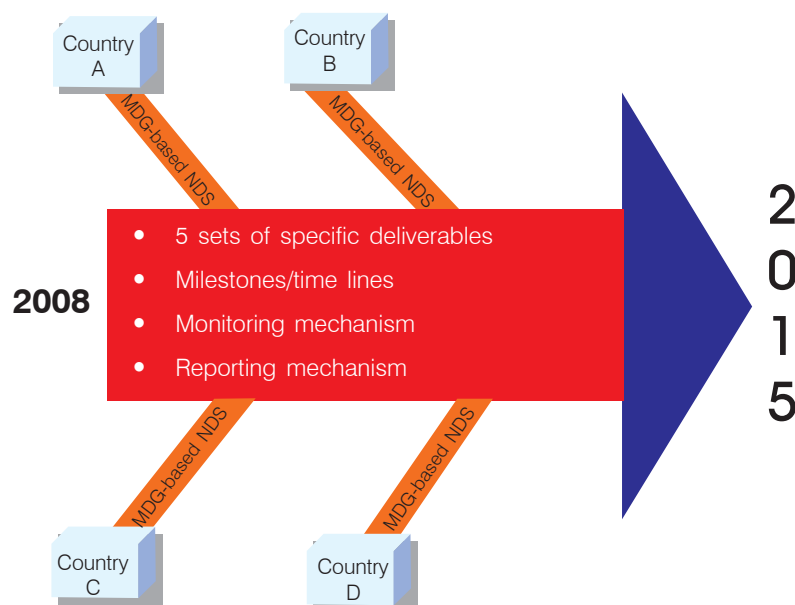
II. REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP TO 2015: A PLATFORM FOR HARNESSING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The priorities identified through the needs assessment exercise and the consultation process, as elaborated in the Annex, have been used to develop and refine the regional MDG road map with its five mutually reinforcing products and services. It should be emphasized, however, that this is not a road map for countries; it is a road map for the regional organizations and agencies acting together to add value to country-level efforts. Nevertheless the regional road map can succeed only if the countries own it. Hence, greater emphasis is needed on its country ownership, particularly through the CCA/UNDAF process.

A. An inclusive approach

The regional road map has targets, benchmarks and timelines and provides for regular monitoring (figure 1). It endeavours to be inclusive, involving a partnership of all UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes and the regional financial development institution. 'Delivering as one' they will assist the off-track countries by offering, on request, a range of products and services. Working through the CCA/UNDAF processes, and in partnership with UNCTs, it would bring in the key partners at the country level such as the government ministries/departments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations/community-based organizations, the media and the academia. The process can also include existing regional initiatives and sub-regional organizations, such as ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the Pacific Islands Forum.

Figure 1. Millennium Development Goals: path to 2015



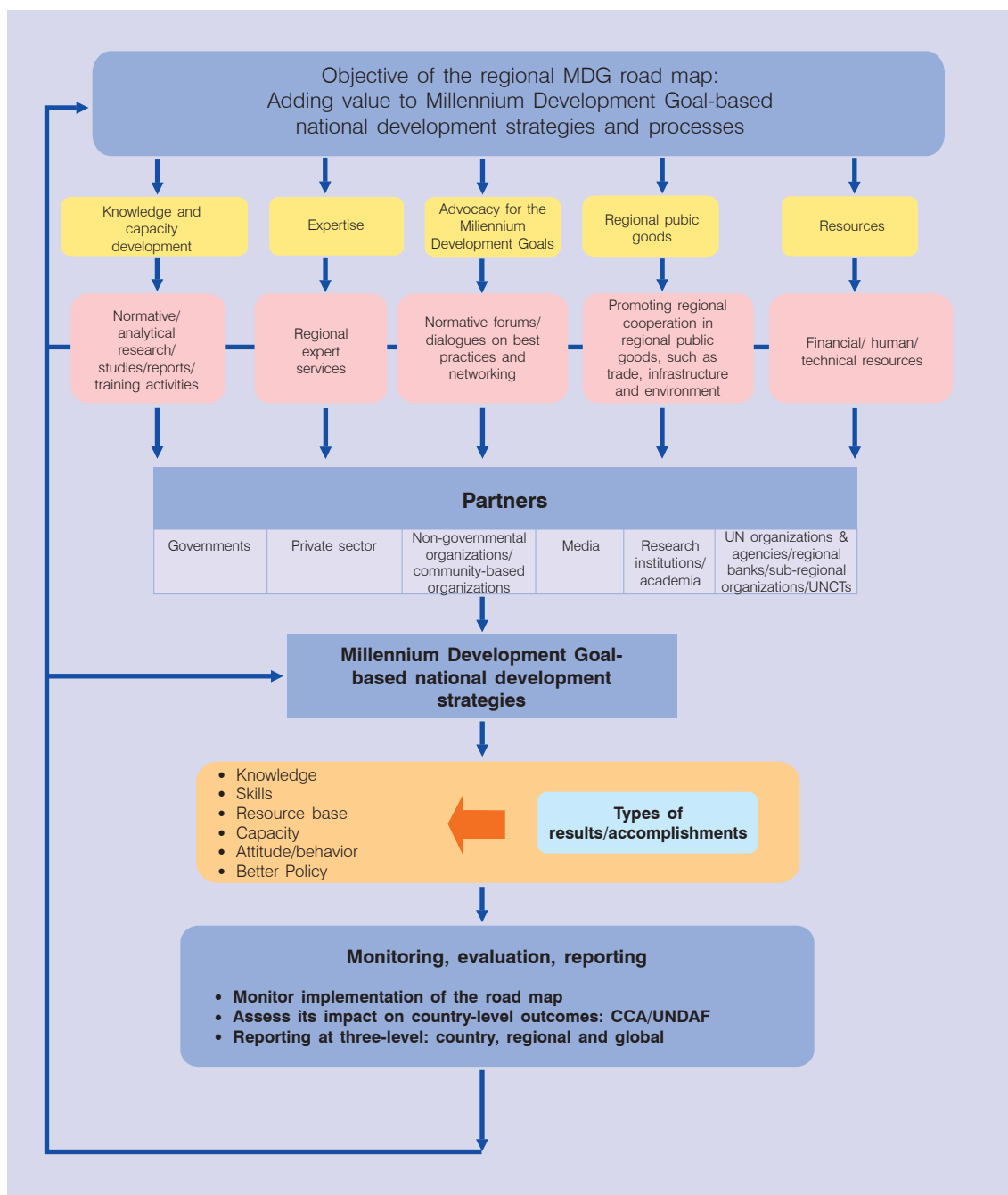
B. The five major categories of deliverables

Figure 2 illustrates how the partnership will assist the off-track countries with five sets of products and services: (i) knowledge and capacity development, (ii) expertise, (iii) advocacy for the MDGs, (iv) regional cooperation in delivering regional public goods, and (v) resources. The knowledge will be derived from research and analysis, but the conclusions can be normative, urging countries to follow a particular course of action. The expertise should help countries solve practical problems in managing programmes and projects that follow from goal-related policies in particular sectors. The regional and sub-regional advocacy forums will facilitate annual reviews of the road map, goal assessment, and networking and interaction on the goals within and between countries. The regional road map will deliver regional public goods, such as frameworks and arrangements which will promote regional cooperation in trade, transport, infrastructure, energy and the environment. Lastly, it will be vital to have the necessary financial, human and technical resources.

1. Knowledge and capacity development

With their normative and analytical research, the regional partners can achieve significant economies of scale in building up knowledge and information. Knowledge generation can take a number of forms including: yearly assessments of progress achieved under each goal and issues related to achieving the MDGs; creating new

Figure 2. Regional MDG road map: delivering as one



knowledge on variables affecting goal outcomes; developing and executing evidence-based policy options; estimating resource requirements; and identifying key areas and sectors for public-private-donor investments.

The following modalities would be pursued:

- (a) A Millennium Development Goal regional publication series:
 - (i) Annual progress reports, thematic studies and sectoral studies;
 - (ii) Analytical studies on key issues and challenges in achieving the MDGs;
 - (iii) Policy briefs on key issues such as poverty and hunger; women's economic security; global warming;
- (b) Knowledge sharing:
 - (i) A regional MDG knowledge management centre;
 - (ii) A network of research and academic institutions to exchange research results and information on the goals;
- (c) Capacity development:
 - (i) Workshops and seminars for policymakers, experts and statisticians on issues and concerns related to the goals;
 - (ii) Exchange programmes to learn about best practices on MDGs;
 - (iii) Ongoing assessment of training needs on MDG areas, using specialized intergovernmental committees;
- (d) Developing an MDG statistical database, in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (e) Regional Millennium Development Goal web-page development.

Through this process of knowledge creation and capacity development, a virtual regional knowledge centre can be established. Some examples of deliverables through this centre are:

- Studies on the progress towards the MDGs, identifying the obstacles to progress and suggesting policies and programmes for reaching the goals. This type of knowledge-creation activity will use data from various international organizations;
- A critical examination of the national development strategies and plans of selected countries and other flagship development documents in order to identify areas of common concern;

- An analysis of the macroeconomic indicators of the off-track countries, considering fiscal, monetary and external-sector regimes, comparing these with those of better-performing countries in order to identify gaps and possible reasons for underperformance;
- Econometric analyses in the off-track countries to establish the growth and non-growth factors in achieving the MDGs, including the role of trade, investment and enterprise development. The relationships between selected goal targets and economic growth will be used to estimate the growth needed to reach priority targets such as poverty reduction. A similar exercise will be repeated for other selected targets. Such exercises already carried out by UNDP and ADB will be used to complement the findings;
- Country-level needs assessments and MDG costing exercises, as done by UNDP at the country level, to (i) identify resource-gap areas; (ii) evaluate human, financial and technical resource gaps; and (iii) estimate the resources needed.

Expected impacts of these types of knowledge creation and capacity-development activities should include:

- (a) Better-informed policymakers, experts and professionals;
- (b) Greater transparency and accountability in implementing MDG-related policies and programmes;
- (c) Better prioritization and targeting of public and private resources;
- (d) Greater utilization of scarce resources, including development assistance;
- (e) Mobilization of partners around a common set of objectives;
- (f) Creation of grass-roots and public support for the MDGs.

2. Expertise

Each country has its own expertise in formulating and executing its development programmes. However, countries that are off-track or performing below the Asian average will continue to depend on significant assistance – in the form of outright grants along with expertise tied to specific programmes funded through development assistance, particularly in the early stages of programme formulation, though in some cases also for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. Such expertise should:

- (a) Augment local expertise;
- (b) Create synergies between locally and externally available expertise;
- (c) Conduct programme identification and feasibility studies;
- (d) Ensure better programme implementation and outcomes.

Expertise is mainly relevant for specific technical applications at the sectoral level. It can be used for a range of programmes including: water and sanitation; transport and communications; tackling HIV/AIDS, delivering rural and child-health services; building micro-credit institutions; developing new services in the financial system for small and medium-sized enterprises; improving trade intelligence and facilitation; and disaggregating statistics for use at the micro level.

All the regional partners have relevant expertise, and UN country teams have in-depth ground-level knowledge and expertise in their areas of specialization. For example, some have direct experience in funding sectoral programmes, while others have accumulated substantial know-how in addressing a range of sectoral issues including the development of frameworks and protocols in cross-border infrastructure projects and the promotion of mechanisms for regional integration. A number of them have also accumulated experience in creating pro-poor public-private partnerships, which can help reduce resource constraints by bringing in private capital and management skills, for example for the provision of water and energy services.

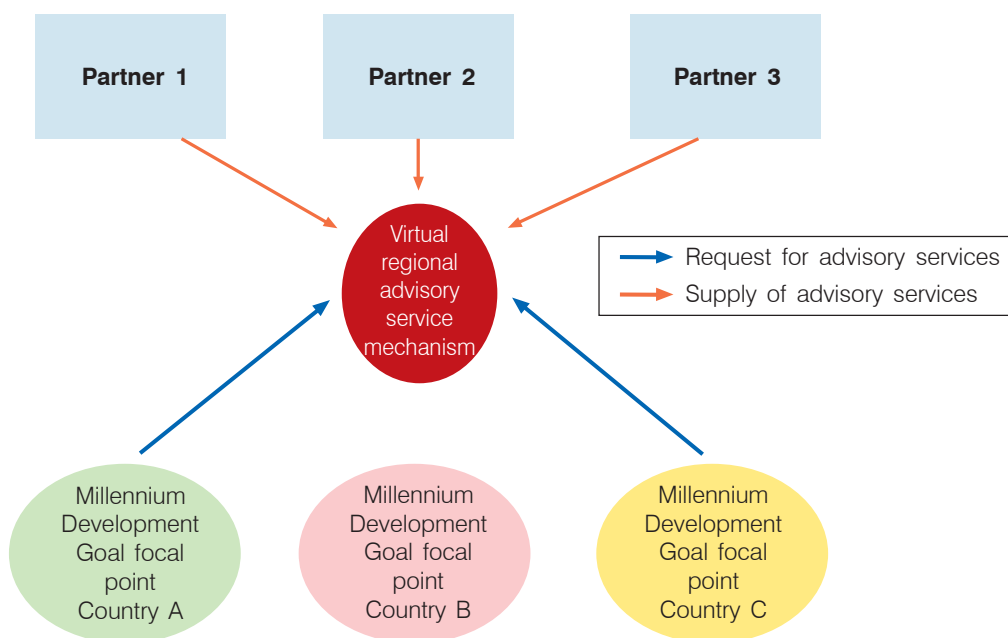
Specific modalities for providing expertise would vary from country to country. Many countries have elaborate and well-honed modalities for securing expertise from their development partners and they review and update these as the situation demands. These could be supplemented through the regional roadmap by a coordinated regional advisory service mechanism, which would have the following features:

- A database of all available expert services;
- Advisory services at the three-digit level;
- The database would have a search programme;
- Countries would be invited to indicate the specialist services they need;
- Organizations/agencies would be invited to provide the names of available experts;
- The database would work as a clearing house;
- ESCAP could act as the 'matchmaker' (figure 3);
- ESCAP would update the database regularly.

Some examples of provision of expertise that could be coordinated by the regional partnership are:

- (a) Creation of income opportunities for women;
- (b) Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and public transport;
- (c) Rural health clinics/child health facilities for preventive care;
- (d) HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment;

Figure 3. Virtual regional advisory service mechanism



- (e) Micro-credit programmes, especially those with strong gender dimensions;
- (f) Energy conservation to minimize adverse environmental impacts;
- (g) Disaggregated MDG statistics;
- (h) Trade facilitation and access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (i) Capacity-building for officials of off-track countries for managing MDG-related programmes;
- (j) Preparation and maintenance of a compendium of experts at the three-digit level (specific expertise).

Pooling the expert services of regional multilateral organizations and ensuring timely and efficient execution would have significant benefits for country programmes – and the achievement of the MDGs.

3. Advocacy for the MDGs

Achieving the MDGs will be the result of different partners playing their designated roles. However, without an institutionalized dialogue between them, the process is likely to become fragmented and uncoordinated – and much less effective. The

UN already has considerable experience in the exchange of information on 'best practices' at the practical level. Another important area of constructive dialogue at the country level is marrying macro-level development objectives with improvements in the quality of life and human development. The funding agencies have experience with programmes in a broad range of sectors as well as macro-level programme support in virtually every country and area in the region – and thus have strong insights into the development process. Similarly, all other partner UN entities have specialized knowledge in their respective fields. All these organizations have the experience of working with and through a variety of partners, including their own subsidiary bodies that have more specific functional and geographical mandates. Another important partner in advocacy will be the media. There are already media awards for creative and innovative reporting on the MDGs, and this work can be further strengthened.

Dialogues and advocacy can have many benefits. One of the most important is raising public awareness so as to build and sustain public support for the goals – and create opportunities and space for the emergence of new forms of organization and alliances. For example, many organizations that deliver goods and services to the poor do not offer them opportunities for representation in the decision-making process. On the other hand, community-based organizations may represent their members better but they have difficulty in articulating wider concerns. The three could be brought together and their creative energies harnessed, thus enhancing their overall effectiveness.

The main modality for MDG advocacy will be regional and sub-regional MDG forums, which could be platforms for the following purposes:

- a) Assessing progress in the MDGs;
- b) Exchanging information and experience on various issues related to the MDGs;
- c) Disseminating the findings of the analytical outputs/reports and obtaining feedback from partners on challenges and priorities through focus group discussions;
- d) Showcasing and analyzing good and innovative practices in achieving the MDGs
- e) Strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation and networking among partners;
- f) Reviewing progress in implementing the regional road map and defining and refining priorities for future actions and assistance;
- g) Forging new partnerships.

4. Regional cooperation in delivering regional public goods

Regional cooperation is also vital for the provision of regional public goods. Those that have a direct impact on the MDGs include cross-border infrastructure projects in transport, energy, water and environment, framework agreements in regional and sub-regional trade and transit infrastructure, as well as modalities for dealing with such cross-border issues as environmental pollution, natural disasters, and communicable diseases which have strong externalities and need to be addressed collectively.

The major deliverables could include the following:

- (a) Normative assessments and studies on:
 - (i) Infrastructure development, such as regional energy security systems/networks, cross-border transport networks/hubs, transit facilities for landlocked countries, water transport for island developing countries;
 - (ii) The impact of cross-border environmental hazards, such as haze and forest fires, on income and health;
 - (iii) Prevention, early warning and management of natural disasters.
- (b) Establishment of protocols and frameworks as follows:
 - (i) Assisting countries in formulating agreements and treaties on cross-border issues;
 - (ii) Promoting regional green-growth campaigns;
 - (iii) Developing protocols to jointly address communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and avian flu.

5. Resources

Many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries have savings gaps and fiscal constraints and lack the resources to fund MDG-related expenditures. For the foreseeable future they will therefore remain dependent on global resources, primarily from developed countries and multilateral institutions.

Several modalities can be used for directing flows to the off-track countries, including:

- Needs assessments and costing exercises to provide realistic estimates of required resource flows;
- The partners can then use that information to deliver resources;

- ODA can be supplemented by increased trade, investment and other forms of financial flows, while taking advantage of the opportunities for South-South cooperation;
- As part of the regional MDG forums, regional donor forums could be used to exchange information and data on resource requirements;
- Country partners participating in the regional donor forums could prepare and submit small-scale technical assistance grant proposals for the consideration of UN agencies, programmes and funds.

Until recently, international donors have not given a high priority to social expenditures. Now a strengthened regional partnership should earmark substantial new resources to support policies that reduce non-income poverty and achieve all the MDGs. For their part, the receiving countries will need a greater sense of ownership of donor-supported programmes and ensure public accountability and transparency. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals should be explicitly recognized as an objective of all development assistance.

The regional partnership can also help the off-track countries to leverage additional resources from the private sector and improve their trade access within and outside the region. Some examples of additional resources in support of the MDGs are:

- (a) More ODA for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states;
- (b) ODA earmarked or specified for selected public services;
- (c) Easier market access for least developed country exports, especially agricultural exports;
- (d) More public-private co-financing of infrastructure projects, such as rural roads and urban water and sanitation;
- (e) Access to development finance for large-scale infrastructure projects through regional financial mechanisms.

As well as finding additional resources, governments need to change how they do things, developing the necessary skills and capacities and ensuring that their national and local institutions fit the needs and aspirations of their citizens. Institutions in this sense refer not only to specific organizations, governmental or non-governmental, but also to the implicit social contracts or 'rules', formal and informal, that guarantee improved patterns of behaviour. All partners have a role to play and a duty to reform their own institutional set-ups and modus operandi, so that they can better meet their responsibilities and fulfil their promises as reflected in the Millennium Declaration.



III. IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP

Table 2 summarizes the deliverables and timelines for implementing the regional MDG road map. Based on the needs assessment and the consultative process, and intensive inter-agency consultation and discussions (see the annex), it lists more than one hundred on-going/planned/new initiatives, encompassing thematic/analytical studies and reports, MDG progress reports, MDG training and capacity development, policy dialogues and forums, and MDG database, MDG web page development and maintenance, communities of practices and regional advisory services. All the UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes and the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank have agreed to participate in implementing these initiatives, either individually or in partnership with others, from 2008 to 2015. The UNCTS will be invited to participate in further defining and executing these initiatives. The various products can be disseminated to them through specially designed workshops and seminars, and their participation can be sought in forging networks and partnerships within as well as across countries. Table 2 is, however, a 'rolling programme' that can be revised in the light of experience, and some of the initiatives that are on-going may be further developed as part of the implementation process.

Table 2: Delivering as One: Partnering for the implementation of the regional MDG road map (2008-2015)

(* indicates 'undecided'/ 'not yet confirmed')

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
Launching of the Regional MDG Road Map by all UN agencies and ADB in April 2008				
I. Knowledge and Capacity Development				
A. Knowledge Products	■ Preparation of annual progress/ thematic reports on the Millennium Development Goals	All UN + ADB		2008-2015
	■ Technical background papers/reports/ policy briefs on:			
	➤ Identification of pro-Millennium Development Goal economic policies and options	ESCAP ILO ESCAP (CAPSA) FAO UNCCD	ADB UNDP	2008-2011
	➤ Engendering MDGs: concrete options and modalities	UNIFEM UNFPA ESCAP (CAPSA) UNCCD WHO		2008-2011
<i>(Continued)</i>				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	➤ New directions in reducing poverty and hunger: lessons from poverty reduction policies and practices	ADB ESCAP (CAPSA) FAO WFP UNCCD UNODC	ISDR UNICEF	2008-2011
	➤ Ending hunger and malnutrition in Asia and the Pacific	FAO WFP WHO		2008-2010
	➤ Promoting women's economic security	ESCAP ILO UNESCO FAO		2007 & on-going
	➤ Social enterprises for achieving MDGs	ESCAP FAO		2008-2010
	➤ Safe working conditions: new perspectives and directions	ILO FAO WHO		2008-2010
	➤ Role of civil society in delivering MDG-related services	ESCAP FAO UNEP UNCCD WHO	ADB	2008-2010
	➤ Climate change and MDGs	ISDR ILO ESCO FAO UNEP UNCCD WHO ITU	ADB	2007-2010
	➤ Reducing maternal mortality: new options/innovative approaches	ESCAP WHO	UNDP UNICEF	2009

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	► Improving working conditions of women in manufacturing sector	ILO		
	► Children in Asia-Pacific: promoting their rights and security	IOM ILO UNESCO UNHCR WHO	ISDR	2008-2010
	► HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases: what works	UNAIDS IOM UNFPA UNIFEM ILO WFP UNHCR UNODC WHO World Bank	ADB	2008-2010
	► Reproductive health and MDGs, including among mobile populations	UNFPA IOM WFP WHO		2008-2010
	► Promoting employment opportunities for poverty reduction	ILO UNESCO FAO	ADB	2005-2010
	► International trade and MDGs	ESCAP	UNCTAD WTO	2008-2015
	► Commercialization of agriculture in achieving the MDGs	FAO ESCAP (CAPSA) UNCCD		2008-2011
	► Promoting food security: experiences of selected countries	FAO ESCAP (CAPSA) WHO		2008-2011

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	➤ Health and nutrition for children	UNICEF		
	➤ Infrastructure and energy	ESCAP	ADB	
	➤ South-South cooperation	ISDR ESCAP FAO UNEP UNCCD UNIDO WHO	ADB UNDP	2008-2010
	➤ Cross border infrastructure issues and MDGs	ESCAP	ADB	
	➤ ICT in MDGs	ITU ESCAP		
	➤ Climate change and poverty: the dual challenge	ILO WFP UNEP WHO World Bank	ADB	On-going
	➤ Transboundary issues and MDGs: migration and HIV	UNAIDS UNIFEM IOM	ADB	2008-2010
	➤ Women entrepreneurship development in small businesses	ESCAP ILO	UNDP	On-going
	➤ Preparation of national level road maps	ESCAP ADB UNDP		
	➤ Claiming the MDGs: A human rights approach	OHCHR		May/June 2008

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	➤ The Right to Development and practical strategies for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 8	OHCHR		Available
	➤ Principles and Guidelines for a Human Rights Based approach to Poverty reduction strategies	OHCHR		Available
	➤ Assessing and monitoring progress in primary education	UNESCO ILO		June-July 2008
	➤ Education for Sustainable Development	UNESCO ILO	ISDR	2008-2009
	➤ Inclusive education practices: regional background document to the International Conference on Education	UNESCO	ISDR	2008
	➤ Lessons learned from applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to development	UNESCO		2007-2008
	➤ Improving access and quality of secondary education	UNESCO ILO		2008-2009
(Continued)				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	► Technology partnership programme	UNIDO		On-going
	► Technology transfer project for ECO countries	UNIDO		Pipeline
	► Technology foresight project in Southeast Asian countries	UNIDO		Pipeline
	■ Costing exercises to calculate “resource gaps” in areas such as			2008-2015
	► Primary and secondary education	UNESCO FAO		2008-2015
	► Child, infant and maternal health	UNAIDS UNFPA UNESCO WHO		2007-2010
	► Water and sanitation	ESCAP UNEP WHO		
	► Transportation and communication	ESCAP		
	■ Macro-modeling/ econometric studies on calculating “MDG gaps”; “growth gaps”, “strategy gaps”, and “policy gaps” through critical examinations of the national development strategies of the selected countries, national development plans and other flagship development documents	ESCAP ADB UNDP ILO	IDRC UNICEF	Jan -Dec 2007-2015
(Continued)				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Selected country needs assessments	UNDP	ADB, IDRC	On-going
	■ Studies on overcoming implementation gaps	ESCAP	ADB, IDRC	2009-2015
	■ Establishment of a network of research and academic institutions to exchange research results and information on the MDGs	ESCAP ADB UNDP ITU		Early 2009
	■ MDG statistical database development in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP UNDP	SIAP UNICEF	On-going
	■ Measuring the Information Society 2007	ITU		2007
	■ Regional Networking through Community of Practice on MDGs	ESCAP UNDP UNMC UNIFEM FAO		September 2007-2010
	■ State of the Asian Cities Report 2008	ESCAP	UN-HABITAT	October 2008
	■ Knowledge Management and Enabling Environments for Poverty Reduction: Guidelines on Scaling-up Good Practices	ESCAP		December 2007

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
B. Capacity Development	■ Regional symposium on Saemaul Undong approach in poverty reduction: lessons from cross-country experience	ESCAP	KOICA	End of 2009
	■ Regional workshop on urban waste management in support of MDGs.	ESCAP	ADB	Early 2009
	■ Capacity building through Asia Pacific Centre of Excellence Network and regular ITU programmes e.g. ICT statistics	ITU		2007 and ongoing
	■ Workshop on promoting public-private-donor cooperation in MDG investments	ADB ESCAP UNDP UNMC WHO	UNCTAD, WB, PS Chambers * ISDR UNICEF	2008 (Report in late 2009; workshop in early 2010)
	■ Exchange visits to learn about "best practices" on MDGs; Organizing study visits for policymakers and practitioners to the projects/programme sites of good practices	ESCAP UNMC WHO		2008-2009
	■ Training needs assessment on MDG areas, using specialized intergovernmental committees	ESCAP		On-going

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Development and participation in the Regional MDG web-page	ESCAP ADB UNDP UNMC UNIFEM WHO		December 2006-2010
	■ EGM on Regional Trends, Issues and Practices in Rural Poverty Reduction	ESCAP	ADB	Late 2008
	■ Organizing regional/sub-regional/country workshops in collaboration with all UN agencies and other development partners on:			2008-2015
	➤ MDG related concepts and paradigms, good practices in achieving the MDGs, analytical research studies on MDGs	ESCAP		
	➤ statistical capacity building on MDGs	ESCAP ECE ESCAP (SIAP)	ADB	
	■ Cybersecurity and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection	ITU		Ongoing

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Youth Programs and Forums for educating and encouraging youth to benefit through participation and learning initiatives in/through telecommunications and ICTs	ITU		Ongoing
	► Special Initiative on Youth and Children	ITU		
	► World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in 2007: Connecting the youth	ITU		
	■ Empowerment of women through ICT and social development through rural communications increasing business and productivity and development	ITU		Ongoing
	► Capacity building activities, e.g. women e-business training	ITU		
	► Studies on gender equality, e.g. Towards Gender-Sensitive Policy Making	ITU		
	■ Emergency Telecommunications: Engendering Prevention and Response	ITU		Ongoing
	■ Localizing MDGs through Community Based Monitoring System	ESCAP	IDRC	

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
C. Capacity building workshops in MDG gap areas	■ Training workshops for Ministry of Finance officials on MDG-budgeting	ESCAP UNDP	ADB	2008 -2015
	■ Preparing capacity building modules to enhance national capacities in monitoring of investments on achieving the MDGs	ESCAP		
	■ Organization of specialized national training/workshop activities on data management and coordination among main producers of MDG-related indicators	ESCAP		
II. Expertise	■ Integrated Regional Advisory Services on MDGs	ESCAP ADB UNDP	All UN	2008-2015
	■ Formulation and implementation of pilot programmes on:			2008-2010
	➤ Income security for women	ESCAP UNDP ILO FAO		2008
	➤ Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and public transport	ADB WHO	UNICEF * UNESCO * WB *	2010
	➤ Rural health clinics/child health facilities for preventive care: role of business	ESCAP UNDP WHO	UNICEF * Private Chambers *	2010

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment 	UNAIDS UNFPA UNIFEM IOM WFP UNHCR UNODC WHO	ESCAP	2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establishing micro-credit schemes, especially those with a strong gender dimension 	ESCAP ADB UNDP ILO FAO World Bank		2008 & on-going
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Energy conservation schemes to minimize adverse environmental impacts 	UNEP UNESCO FAO ADB		2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sex-disaggregated MDG statistics 	ESCAP UNDP	ADB	On-going
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Trade facilitation and access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises 	ESCAP		2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development and testing of training modules on capacity-building for officials of off-track countries for managing programmes in MDG areas 	ESCAP ADB UNDP		2009-2012

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	► Promoting Cultural Industries for the socio-economic development and job creation	UNESCO		Part of a 10 year plan of action started in 2005
	► Sustainable consumption and production	UNIDO		Pipeline
	► Renewable energy development for electricity generation and productive uses	UNIDO		On-going
	► Trade capacity building (SMTQ)	UNIDO		On-going
	► Trade capacity building; laboratory network of testing and calibration facilities in developing countries	UNIDO		Pipeline
	► Trade capacity building for ECO countries	UNIDO		Pipeline
	► Direct country assistance on improving ICT infrastructure and applications	ITU		Ongoing
III. Advocacy for the MDGs	■ Sub-regional MDG Forums in South Asia, East-Asia and South-East Asia, Central Asia and Pacific Island economies/ countries	ESCAP ADB UNDP UNAIDS ISDR UNMC UNESCO WHO		4 forums to be held every 2 years

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Formulation and review of sub-regional Action Plans	ESCAP ADB UNDP UNFPA UNIFEM UNMC ISDR UNESCO WHO		
	■ Establishment of the "Asian Parliamentarians' Forum for MDGs"	ESCAP ADB UNDP UNFPA UNIFEM UNMC UNESCO WHO	AFPPD *	2008-2010
	■ Promotion of MDGs through Asia Pacific Business Forum	ESCAP ADB UNDP	PS Chambers *	On-going
	■ Media Awards for promoting MDGs	ESCAP ADB UNDP	All UN*	First awarded in 2007 (to be continued)
	■ Organizing an Asia-Pacific Roundtable on MDGs and Human Rights	OHCHR		October 2008
	■ The bi-annual FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	FAO		
	■ Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger (RTWG-PH)	FAO		
(Continued)				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Three-year (2007-2010) regional programme on pro-poor policy formulation, dialogue and implementation covering eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region, funded by IFAD 	FAO		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A regional strategy and programme for food security between FAO-RAP and SAARC 	FAO		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yearly World Food Day celebration on Oct. 16 	FAO		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bi-annual review entitled State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific 	FAO		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organizing various expert consultation and policy forums to facilitate exchange of relevant knowledge and information and for advocacy of measures to address food insecurity and rural poverty in the region 	FAO		
(Continued)				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organising Connect Asia-Pacific Summit in pursuance to the implementation of the WSIS targets (MDG) under the Connect the World Initiative 	ITU	Partners	2008
IV. Regional Public Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Normative assessments and studies on the following: 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of regional energy security systems/networks 	ESCAP ADB UNESCO World Bank	UNEP *	2007-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of cross-border transport hubs/networks 	ESCAP ADB		2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transit facilities for landlocked countries 	ESCAP ADB		2009-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water transport for island developing countries 	ESCAP ADB		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Impact of cross-border environmental hazards, such as haze and forest fires, on climate change 	ISDR FAO UNEP UNCCD UNODC WHO	ADB	2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disaster communications: ITU Handbook on Best Practice on Emergency Telecommunication. Major initiatives undertaken as follows: 	ITU	ESCAP	2007 and ongoing

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU Global Forum on Effective Use of Telecommunications /ICT for Disaster Management: Saving Lives, Geneva, 10-12 December 2007; 	ITU		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Disaster Communications, 12-14 December 2006; 	ITU		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct country assistance on disaster communication 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establishment of frameworks in formulating agreements and treaties on cross-border issues in areas such as: 	IOM UNIFEM ILO FAO UNCCD UNODC WHO World Bank	ADB	2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Labour migration 	IOM ILO UNIFEM FAO	ADB	2008-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Energy security 	IOM UNIFEM FAO ESCAP ADB World Bank		2009-2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trade facilitation 	ESCAP ADB		2010-2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate change 	UNEP * ISDR	ADB	

(Continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Promoting regional green-growth campaigns	ESCAP UNESCO FAO UNEP		2008-2015
	■ Promoting sub-regional compacts in combating trafficking in women	ESCAP ADB UNDP IOM ILO UNODC	UNIFEM * SAARC * ASEAN * ECO * UNICEF	2009
	■ Disaster prevention and management facility for South Asia	ESCAP ADB UNDP ISDR	SAARC *	2008-2015
	■ Community-based disaster risk management under the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Consortium	OCHA		
	■ Promoting MDGs through APNET	ESCAP		2007 onwards
	■ Establishment of sub-regional training centers for health personnel (midwives)	UNFPA *	ESCAP	2009-2015
V. Resources	■ Regional round table on MDG financing	ADB ESCAP UNDP	UNICEF	2009
	■ Workshop on facilitating South-South Cooperation in skills formation	ESCAP ADB UNDP UNMC FAO WHO	SSCU	2007-2010
	■ Training workshop on promoting workers' remittances as a development resource.	ESCAP ADB UNDP IOM UNIFEM		2008-2010
(Continued)				

Table 2: (continued)

Products and Services	Deliverables	Participating Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Time lines
	■ Technical assistance in preparing and submitting small technical assistance grant proposals	FAO		2008-2010
	➤ Investment promotion in North-East Asia	UNIDO		Pipeline
	➤ South-South Industrial Cooperation Centres	UNIDO		Pipeline
	➤ Emergency assistance to the fisheries sector in selected South Pacific countries	UNIDO		Pipeline
	■ Technical assistance on regulatory reforms and capacity building	ITU		2007 ongoing



IV. MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND FINANCING THE REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP

The success of the regional road map will depend ultimately on the commitment of the regional organizations and entities in pooling their resources and expertise. To do so effectively they will require specific plans, milestones and timelines, and systems for evaluating the outcomes.

A. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the regional MDG road map: a results-based approach

Countries are primarily responsible for monitoring their own MDG performance, though they may seek assistance from the international community. For the regional MDG road map monitoring is the responsibility of the participating UN agencies, either through the RCM or an existing relevant thematic group within the RCM.

The evaluation can be based on table 2 which allows actual outcomes to be assessed against associated timelines. For this purpose the UN agencies can use their periodic progress reports as well as country MDG reports. The UNDAF process can also be a powerful instrument, along with national and sub-regional forums and consultations².

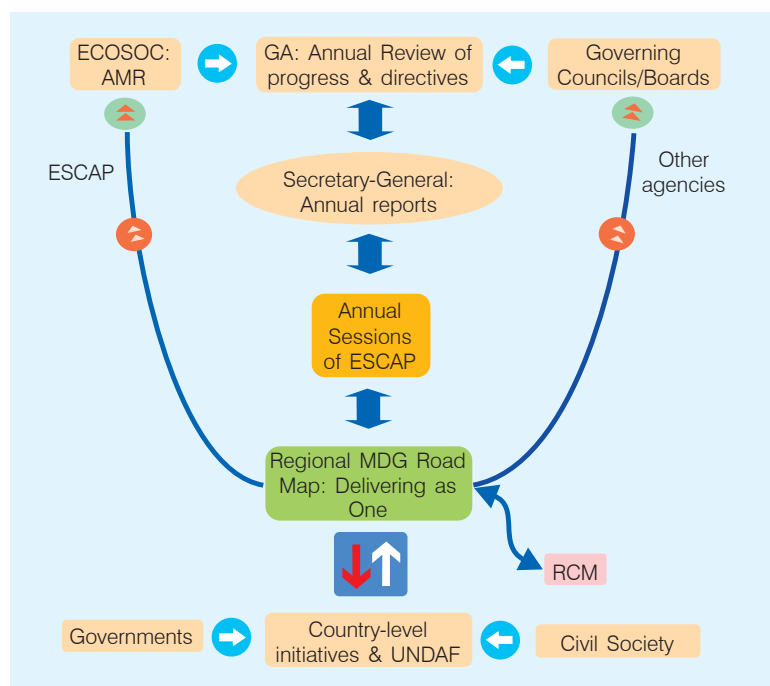
² However, there is an important caveat. Many stakeholders and partners are working at the country, regional and global levels in support of the MDGs. Actual MDG outcomes are always, by their very nature, a result of these collective efforts. So, it may often be very difficult to attribute country-level MDG outcomes to specific activities and initiatives implemented under the regional road map.

B. Reporting

At the country level, progress can be reported to the UN Country Team and be made part of the UNDAF process. At the regional level, it will be reported to the annual Commission sessions of ESCAP, the RCM, the intergovernmental committees, regional and sub-regional advocacy forums, expert meetings and regional conferences/round tables/dialogues.

At the global level, ESCAP will report on progress to the Annual Ministerial Review through ECOSOC and to the General Assembly through Secretary-General's annual review of progress and directives. The other UN agencies will report on progress to their respective governing bodies. Figure 4 is a rough illustration of the present global MDG process.

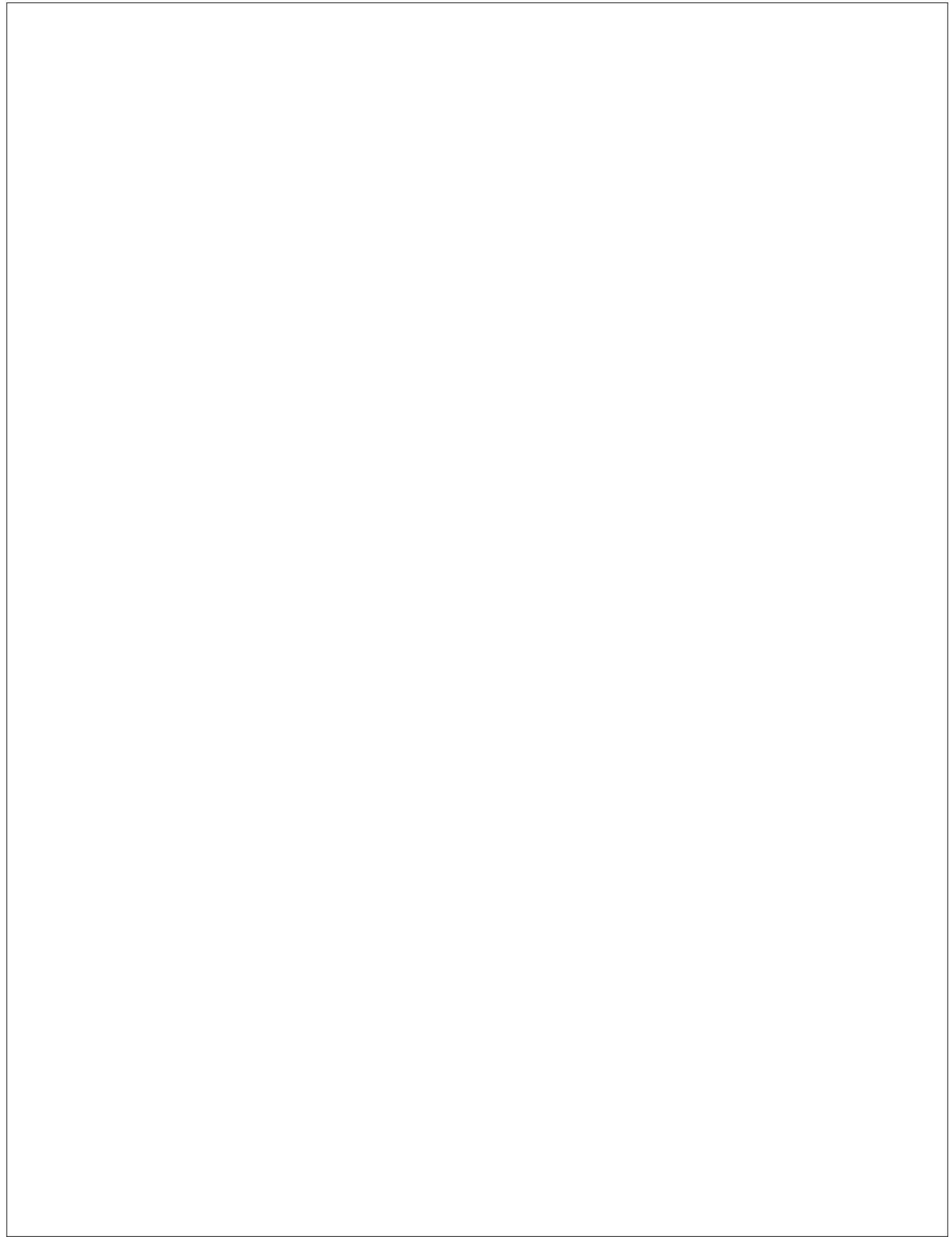
Figure 4: Global MDG process: the big picture



C. Financing the regional MDG road map

The regional MDG road map can only add value to national MDG achievement process if sufficient resources can be mobilized for its implementation. It can be financed through a mix of sources: (i) UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes which have agreed to forge partnerships in certain programme areas; (ii) the existing regional tripartite partnership between ESCAP, ADB and UNDP; (iii) the UN Development Account; (iv) selected private-sector entities; and (v) extra-budgetary resources from bilateral donors.

ANNEXES





I. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In order to identify the key areas of concern, and to further develop and refine the draft regional road map that was presented to the Commission during the sixty-third session, a needs assessment exercise was conducted. This had three components: (a) an assessment to identify those MDG targets/indicators in which countries are off-track or performing below the Asian average; (b) an analysis of national development strategies to see how well these are linked to achieving the MDGs and to identify gaps; and (c) an assessment of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to identify the priority areas at the country level and the extent to which these concerns are linked to the MDGs.

A. Key priority areas based on progress so far achieved

Just seven years away from 2015, the region stands at a crossroads. While it can be proud of its many achievements, there are several areas for deep concern, requiring concerted action at the national and regional levels. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress in Asia and the Pacific 2007, released jointly by ESCAP, ADB and UNDP in October 2007 paints a mixed picture of status and progress of countries and sub-regions on 21 indicators from the official MDG dataset.³ Countries appear to be stagnating/regressing on 17 percent of the indicators, while they show slow progress on 8 percent. These percentages would undoubtedly be higher if more data were available.⁴

³ It may be noted that results vary according to the dataset; national reports may indicate different status or progress on a given indicator. Furthermore, lack of data, and data reliability, are serious issues that limit the validity of the analysis.

⁴ For example, because there are no data for 15 of the 21 indicators for Timor-Leste the country appears to be slow in none of the indicators and appears to be stagnant or regressing only in one indicator.

Although the Asian and Pacific region has emerged as an economic powerhouse, its progress towards achieving the MDGs has thus been mixed. Its most significant achievement has been with reducing the number of people who live below \$1 (PPP) per day. The region as a whole is on track in meeting the 2015 target of halving the proportion of people living in poverty. Similar progress has also been made in increasing the net primary enrolment ratios and eliminating gender disparity in education at the primary level.

But much of the news is not so good. Hunger and malnutrition remain critical challenges. Some progress has been made but not enough to meet the 2015 target for the region as a whole. Millions of children continue to die before they reach the age of five. The region has a higher rate of maternal mortality than Latin America and the Caribbean. Communicable diseases are still a major concern for many countries. The region's environmental resources are also under considerable stress as rapid economic growth has taken its toll. The region is also performing poorly in providing rural populations with access to safe water and basic sanitation.

Regardless of data and other limitations, an analysis of the 2007 progress report reveals that the indicators shown in annex table 1 – which can be termed MDG-deficits – appear to be of grave concern for the sub-regions indicated, and where specified, for the region as a whole.⁵

B. MDG gap analysis

Annex table 1 indicates that many countries in the region, in particular the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDSs are off-track or regressing. None will achieve all the MDGs by 2015. In other words, there are serious 'MDG-gaps' or 'MDG-deficits' which need to be urgently bridged. Do these reflect policy failures at the national level or a failure in possible interventions by the international community? This section makes a brief assessment of national development strategies, identifies other gaps that lie behind the MDG-gaps and discusses how the UNDAF process can assist countries in filling those gaps.

a. Salient features of national development strategies: how well are they aligned to achieving the MDGs?

More participatory and country-driven: It is increasingly recognized that MDG targets should find their place in national development strategies along with those for economic indicators, such as those for growth, inflation, balance of

⁵ A more detailed analysis of MDG achievements is given in ESCAP/ADB/UNDP *A Future within Reach 2008: Regional partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* (Bangkok, UN, 2008) which is being issued along with this regional MDG road map.

Annex table 1: MDG-deficits/MDG-gaps: priority areas for intervention

MDG 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme poverty particularly in South Asia • Child hunger particularly in South and South-East Asia
MDG 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school enrolment in the Pacific • Primary school completion rates throughout the region, especially in South and South-East Asia
MDG 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender parity in secondary and tertiary education throughout the region • Share of women in non-agricultural wage employment in all sub-regions except CIS countries
MDG 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant and child mortality in South Asia and in CIS countries
MDG 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal health in all sub-regions and particularly in South Asia
MDG 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV and AIDS in several countries and especially in the North and Central Asia sub-region • Malaria especially in the Pacific • TB prevalence and infection rates in North and Central Asia
MDG 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest cover in all sub-regions except North and Central Asia and China • CO₂ emissions throughout the region except in North and Central Asia • Access to safe water and sanitation in rural areas throughout the region

payments, and fiscal deficits. Indeed achieving the MDGs is closely linked with economic performance and MDG policies are major instruments for achieving economic targets.

The primary responsibility rests with individual countries, tailoring their development strategies to their conditions. The national development strategies, in the form of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) or National Development Plans provide a medium-term framework within which national development objectives are framed to be achieved within the specified period. In formulating and implementing the national development strategies, a significant change appears to have taken place in recent years. For example, there is a growing consensus that the focus of development policy should shift from its historical emphasis on a narrow definition of growth to a wider concept of sustainable and inclusive economic, social and ecological development. This also includes a greater concern for 'process', in that the ultimate beneficiaries of development must be consulted and involved in both framing and implementing development policies and programmes. There is thus a greater emphasis on country ownership in the design and implementation of development plans and programmes.

Strengths of national development strategies: It should be recognized that, the principal means for fighting poverty in most countries is an amalgam of economic and social policies and instruments for the promotion of more rapid and equitable economic growth – within a broader and more equitable development framework that includes actions to improve infrastructure, expand public services for the poor, enhance access to credit for the poor and generate expanded employment opportunities in both the formal and informal sectors. While accepting that wider development objectives should underpin public policy, most countries in the region continue to rely on rapid economic growth as a key component of development policy as, without such an explicit objective, neither the public nor the private sectors of the economy would be able to generate the resources needed to address the broader development objectives. The regional experience also demonstrates that the objective of maximizing growth with equity or social justice, or some variant of it, is followed by a hierarchy of other development objectives, but the order in which these objectives appear in national development strategies depend to a large extent on national priorities and stages of development. This would suggest that no single approach will meet all the development objectives of all the developing countries.

The principal strengths of the national development strategies are that they are: (a) country-driven and country-owned; (b) directed towards achieving results; and (c) partnership-oriented in that they encourage the coordinated involvement of bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental organizations. Governments no longer look upon themselves as the sole actors; instead they seek different partners in society in both the formulation and implementation of national development strategies.

Limitations of national development strategies: An assessment of national development strategies indicates several gaps, including gaps in strategies themselves. In many countries, national strategies are not explicitly designed to achieve the MDGs. For instance, almost all the national development strategies examined in the preparation of the present road map have in common development goals such as poverty reduction, high and sustained levels of educational enrolment, promotion of child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, and public-private cooperation and donor support. However, these are neither explicitly linked to achieving the respective MDGs, nor to the government budget.

b. Gaps in achieving the MDGs

The regional MDG report, *A Future within Reach 2008: Regional partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* suggests that the 'MDG gaps' or 'MDG deficits' (as in annex table 1) can be traced to five other gaps: 'growth gaps', 'strategy gaps', 'policy gaps', 'implementation gaps', and 'resource gaps'.⁶ These gaps taken together are hindering the progress towards achieving the

⁶ See ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, *A Future within Reach 2008: Regional partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* (Bangkok, UN, 2008) for a full discussion of these gaps.

MDGs. Analytical studies underpinning the regional MDG report provide strong evidence to show that the lack of pro-poor economic growth, the absence of appropriate strategies and policies and the failure to implement them efficiently, and the lack of adequate financial resources have become binding constraints in many countries. For example, the report found that the economic growth rates required to achieve the MDGs are much higher than the current rates, indicating a huge growth gap. Most countries will be unable to achieve the MDGs, including goal 1, without paying attention to the structure and quality of growth, and the nature of pro-MDG economic policies and institutions. This requires developing assistance programmes for off-track countries so as to ensure macro-economic stability as well as generate pro-poor and inclusive economic growth and social progress.

An analysis of national development strategies, in the form of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) or national development plans indicates a gap in strategies. The public expenditure implications of achieving MDG targets are seldom incorporated in national development strategies or annual budgets. Overcoming this gap first requires advocating closer linkages between the MDGs and national development plans and strategies, and second providing assistance to countries for developing better strategies.

A comparison of indicators of “off-track countries” and “early achievers” indicates policy gaps in areas such as GDP growth, social expenditure and financing. Economic policies which enable pro-MDG economic growth to take place can be classified in four broad groups: economy-wide institutional and policy reforms, macroeconomic stabilization policies, sectoral policies, and pro-poor expenditures and revenue policies.

The report also reveals problems related to governance and to translating policies and strategies into effective actions. There are no national road maps for achieving the MDGs by 2015. The ‘implementation gaps’ indicate slow progress by all stakeholders, including the governments and the international community. This may require access to knowledge products such as innovative practices and to capacity development in MDG-related programmes and projects. Developing countries also suffer from inadequate resources for achieving the MDGs.

In some countries the resource gaps could be wide. For example, the additional resources required by the Asia-Pacific LDCs to achieve the MDGs could be up to \$8 billion annually for the period to 2015⁷. These gaps indicate a failure to mobilize financial resources, both at the national and international levels. This calls for strong policy-based advocacy for allocating and mobilizing adequate resources as well as innovative approaches and mechanisms.

⁷ *Ibid*

Annex table 2: Priority areas under the UNDAF process in selected countries

Afghanistan	Governance, rule of law and human rights	Sustainable livelihoods	Health and education	Environment and natural resources		
Bangladesh	Democratic governance and human rights	Health, nutrition and sustainable population	Education and pro-poor growth	Social protection and disaster risk reduction	Gender equality and advancement	Prevention and protection against HIV/AIDS
Bhutan	Governance	Poverty reduction	Education	Health care	Environmental sustainability and disaster management	
Cambodia	Good governance and the promotion of human rights	Agriculture and rural poverty	Capacity building and human resource development for the social sector	Development of the national strategic development plan		
Kyrgyzstan	Democratic governance	Poverty alleviation and social services	HIV/AIDS			
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	Institutional capacity and governance	Livelihood of the poor	Social services			
Maldives	Governance	Social and economic equity	Gender equity and empowerment of women	Environmental management and disaster risk management		
Nepal	Consolidating peace	Sustainable livelihood	Quality basic service delivery	Human rights, gender equity and social services		
Papua New Guinea	Governance and crisis management	Sustainable livelihood and population	Foundation for human development	Gender	HIV/AIDS	

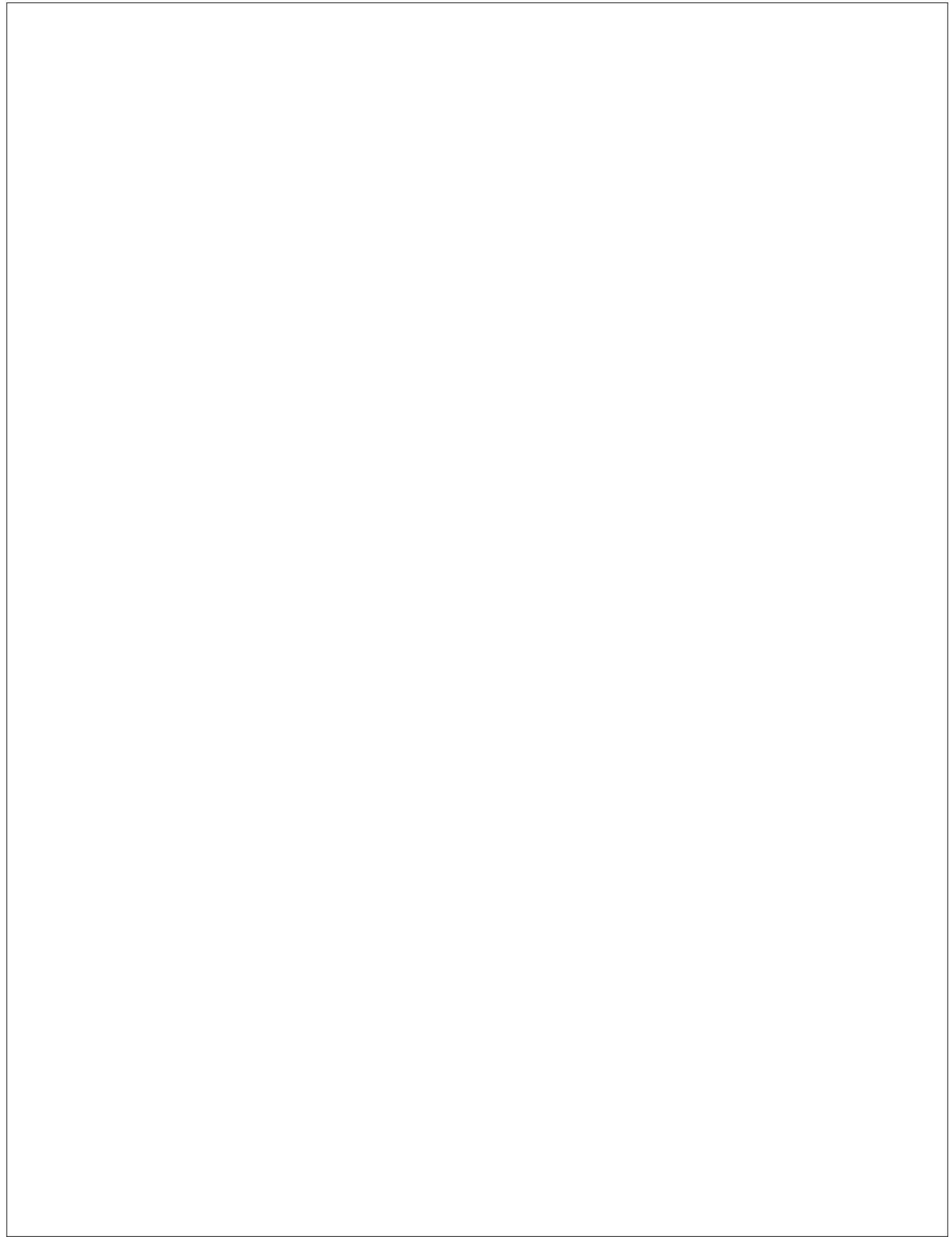
Source: UNDAFs of selected countries

C. MDGs and the UNDAF Process

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework provides a country-level structure through which the UN agencies support long-term development. The UNDAFs are developed in close coordination and collaboration with member governments, thus building on national development priorities, while also reflecting the UN's commitment to the MDGs and to a rights-based approach to development. The UNDAF also reflects efforts by UN agencies to 'deliver as one.'

It is important therefore to ensure close linkages between UNDAFs and the regional road map. A brief analysis of the UNDAFs of selected LDCs, LLDCs and SIDSs reveals that their priority areas are in line with those identified in the statistical analysis, the gap analysis and the priorities expressed at sub-regional forums. Annex table 2 gives a snapshot for nine countries of their UNDAF priority areas, indicating in almost all of these a key cross-cutting area is governance. However, the regional and sub-regional analyses do not specify governance which could be a cross-cutting area of focus under all five deliverables.

It should be noted, however, that the UNDAFs are not always perfectly aligned with the priorities of national development plans and PRSPs. Priority areas reflected in UNDAFs are sometimes determined by the country presence of particular UN agencies, programmes and funds. For example, the role of economic growth in economic development and social progress is not adequately reflected in many of the UNDAFs. The regional road map can play a useful role in filling that gap by bringing in new analyses, experiences, practices and evidence-based advocacy through its analytical work and thereby adding value to the UNDAF preparation process. It can become a vehicle for transferring cross-country experiences and lessons and influence the UNDAF processes in individual countries. The regional MDG road map can also play a role in addressing more robustly key transformational issues in the UNDAF process. In this context, regular consultation and dialogue between the UN Country Teams and UN regional teams can contribute in making both the regional MDG road map and the country-specific UNDAFs living documents.





II. CONSULTATION PROCESS IN THE FORMULATION OF THE REGIONAL MDG ROAD MAP

A. Sub-regional consultation

The regional MDG road map is the result of an extensive consultation process. Three MDG forums were organized in South Asia, East and South-East Asia, and Central Asia, respectively.⁸ The first was held in Kathmandu from 11-12 October 2006; the second in Hanoi on 2-3 March 2007; the third in Bishkek on 12-14 July 2007. Each attracted over 100 participants, including senior government officials, private-sector representatives, NGOs, media and academic experts.

The forums had several interrelated objectives: disseminate the key findings and messages of the second regional MDG report published in 2005, and the MDG progress report published in 2006; impart advocacy information and skills to selected partners who would in turn become MDG advocates in their own countries and communities; identify priorities and action points for the draft regional MDG road map; enhance partnerships across a broad range of partners for effective MDG advocacy;

⁸ The South Asia forum was attended by participants from seven countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The East-Asia and South-East Asia forum was attended by participants from 12 countries: Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The North and Central Asia forum was attended by participants from 11 countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

and establish sub-regional MDG networks to facilitate policy dialogue and advocacy among all MDG partners.

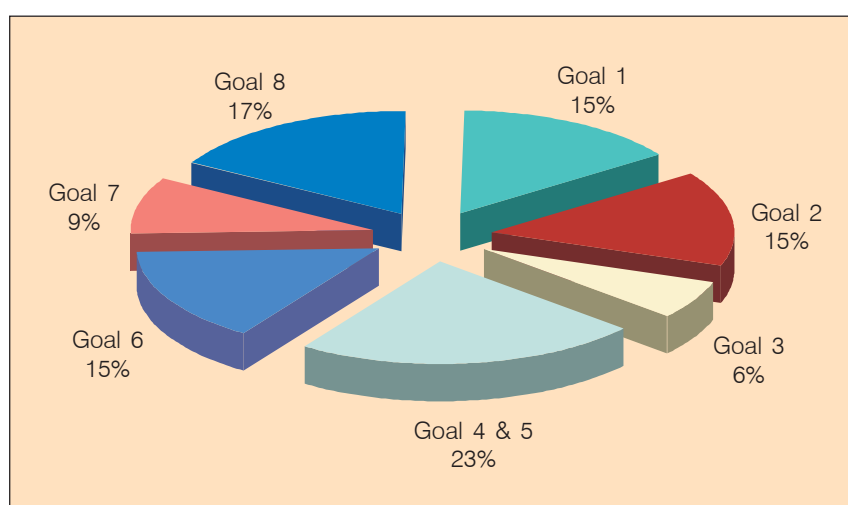
The forums had four outcomes. They

- created better informed and knowledgeable partners in advocating the MDGs
- established the sub-regional networks for promoting the achievement of the MDGs
- adopted three sub-regional plans of action in support of the MDGs
- generated extensive media coverage

It is clear that each sub-region has its own priorities in terms of policy issues, as captured in annex figures 1 to 3.

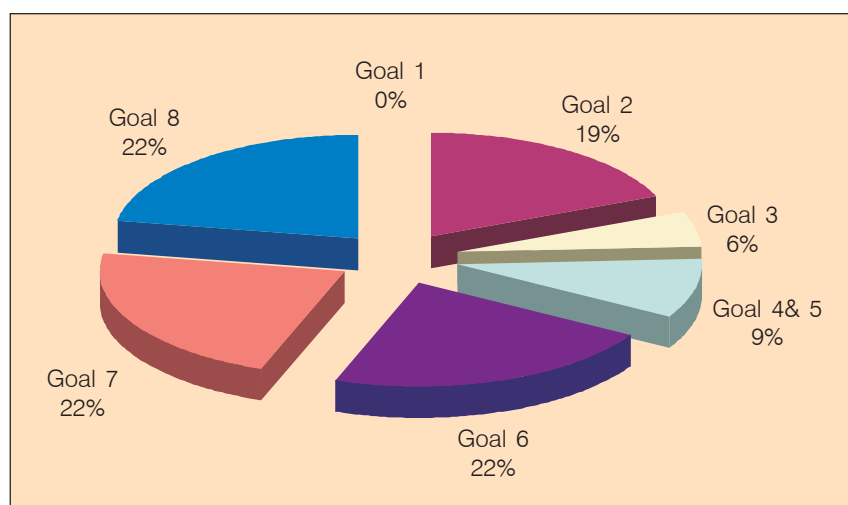
In **South Asia**, most of the issues (23 percent of the total in the South Asia Action Plan) were on Goals 4 and 5, relating to child and maternal mortality, followed by Goal 8 with 17 percent (annex figure 1). The main issues under goals 4 and 5 were: treating women with proper dignity and making them partners in development; health infrastructure development; improved service delivery; strong institutional mechanisms; education through formal textbooks and community-based programmes; incentives for health practitioners; continued research to get updated evidence; public-private partnerships; and external resource generation.

Annex figure 1: Key priority issues in South Asia



In **East-Asia and South-East Asia**, most of the priorities were in Goals 6, 7 and 8, each with 22 percent of the total issues (annex figure 2). Some of the key issues under Goal 6 were: lack of reliable data on HIV and AIDS and the use of data for programming; stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV; poor coverage for most-at-risk populations, such as sex workers and drug users; the needs of unrecognized affected groups, such as the elderly and orphans; the changing epidemic, increasingly driven by young people and with more women infected; migration; unrecognized linkages between TB and HIV; drug resistance; and poor awareness of the disease. Under Goal 7 some of the key issues were: ownership of infrastructure property; lack of good data; low capacity in effective use of resources; low technical capacity; lack of involvement in policy making; low capacity in implementation and management; ineffective legal systems and weak legal capacity. Under Goal 8, issues were: strengthening already established networks within East-Asia and South-East Asia; and the debt burden of developing countries which reduced their capacity to finance the MDGs.

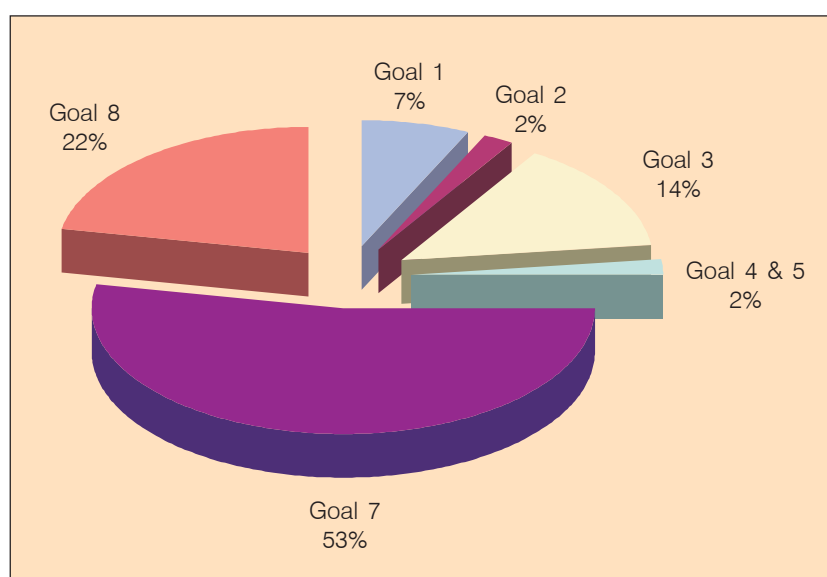
Annex figure 2: Key priority issues in East-Asia and South-East Asia



In **North and Central Asia**, the most important issue was environmental sustainability (annex figure 3). Within the focus areas of water, land and energy management, the priority areas of concern were: trans-border water resource management, land degradation, ecosystems, energy efficiency and energy saving, and household, industrial and radioactive waste. Income poverty appears to have resurfaced in several countries in North and Central Asia. MDG data and monitoring also

received special attention. Areas of concern and key issues and action points revolved around the introduction of new targets/indicators, the collection of disaggregated data, the use of outcome indicators and a recommendation to make statistical bodies independent of government and other bodies.

Annex figure 3: Key priority issues in North and Central Asia



Annex table 3 summarizes the priorities identified by participants in the sub-regional consultations and by the statistical analysis in the 2007 MDG progress report. In some cases the statistical analysis failed to identify areas of concern that were prioritized in the sub-regional consultations whereas in other instances the sub-regional consultations failed to recognize the need for improvement in areas highlighted by the 2007 MDG Progress Report. This would suggest there is considerable room for additional awareness raising and harmonization of priorities.

Annex table 3: Priority areas by sub-region identified by the 2007 MDG progress report and the sub-regional consultation process

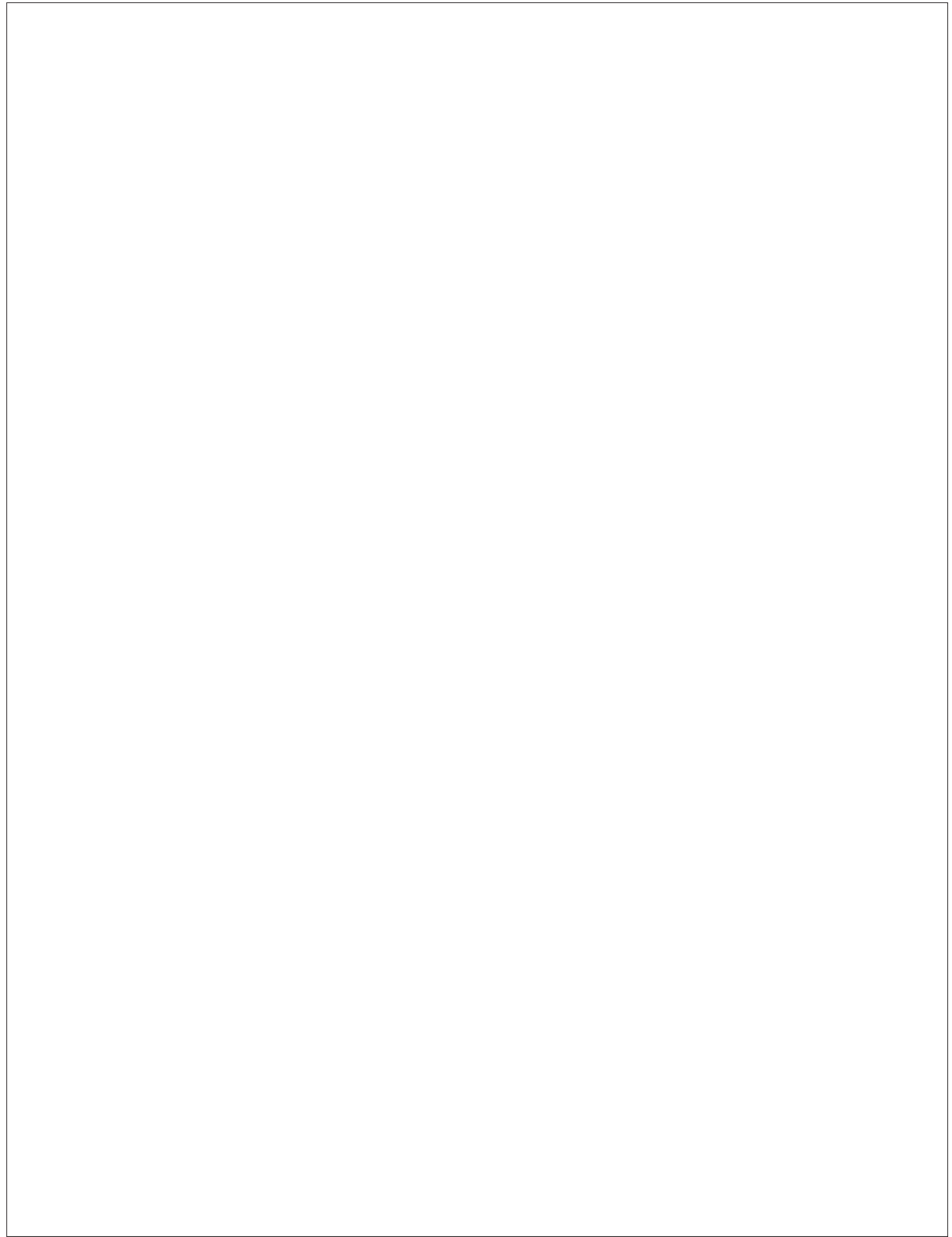
	MDG 1		MDG 2		MDG 3		MDG 4	MDG 5	MDG 6			MDG 7			
Sub-Region:	Extreme poverty	Child hunger	Primary enrolment	Primary completion	Gender parity secondary & tertiary school	Women in non-agricultural Work	Infant & child mortality	Maternal health	HIV and AIDS	Malaria	Tuberculosis	Forest cover	CO ₂ emissions	Water & sanitation-rural	Water & sanitation-urban
East & NE Asia				X	X	X		X				X	X	X	
South-East Asia		X		XX	X	X		X				X	X	X	
South Asia	X	X		XX	X	X	X	XX				X	X	X	
South-West Asia				X	X	X		X				X	X	X	
North & Central Asia				X	X		X	X	XX		X			XX	
Pacific			X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	

Source: ESCAP

Notes: Shaded cells indicate priorities identified by sub-regional consultations. X indicates priorities identified through the 2007 MDG Progress report. Bold XX indicates priorities identified by the 2007 report for all sub-regions, especially the sub-region indicated.

B. Consultations with UN agencies

Under the overall guidance of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), a series of consultations were held between ESCAP and other Bangkok-based UN organizations and agencies in order to identify common areas of interest and joint action in implementing the regional MDG road map. These organizations and agencies agreed to contribute to the road map according to their respective areas of expertise and comparative advantage, while ESCAP would play a facilitating role. The road map was also presented to the Thematic Group on Poverty and Hunger under the RCM. As a result of these consultations, a matrix of various outputs and services has been agreed, with contributions from the participating UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes with indicative timelines (table 2).



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